



Behavioral Health is Essential To Health



Prevention Works







People Recover







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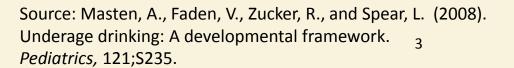




Humans are developing organisms.

- People change physically, socially, and emotionally throughout life particularly during childhood and adolescence.
- Youth are more vulnerable to alcohol use during periods of transition.







- Developmental changes influence the emergence and progression of drinking behaviors.
 - Expectancies about alcohol use shift from predominantly negative to positive during late childhood/early adolescence.
 - Striking patterns of age-related use and problems (e.g., rates of use, binge drinking, and heavy drinking) increase as youth age.





 Underage drinking has developmental consequences.

 Certain regions of the brain may be more susceptible to damage from heavy alcohol use during adolescence.

 Drinking also may alter the development of social and academic competence.



- Alcohol use disorders are developmental in nature.
 - Disorders typically emerge during late adolescence or early adulthood.
 - Youth who begin drinking by age 14 are more than six times as likely to develop alcohol problems as adults than those who don't drink before age 21.



Key Points

- Prevention is a continuum.
- To be effective, efforts to prevent or reduce underage drinking behaviors must be developmentally informed and age-appropriate.
- Collaboration across child-serving organizations (e.g., between high schools and colleges) is necessary to reinforce prevention messages during windows of vulnerability and opportunity.



Workshop Presenters

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Workshop Presenters

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